

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COLOMB 02465 081201Z

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3183

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 2465

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CE, IN

SUBJ: VISIT BY NORTH KOREAN VICE PRIME MINISTER

REF: COLOMBO 937

1. NORTH KOREAN DELEGATION LED BY VICE PRIME MINISTER HO DAM VISITED SRI LANKA FROM AUG 2 TO AUG 5 AT INVITATION OF SRI LANKA FREEDOM PARTY (SLFP) YOUTH LEAGUE. DELEGATION WAS MET BY DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS, LAKSHMAN JAYAKODY, AND SEEN OFF BY PRIME MINISTER'S SON ANURA BANDARANAIKE WHO IS PRESIDENT OF SLFP YOUTH LEAGUE. HO DAM MET WITH PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE AND WAS GIVEN DINNER BY MINISTER OF JUSTICE, FELIX DIAS BANDARANAIKE. VISIT OSTENSIBLY RECIPROCATES ANURA'S TRIP TO NORTH KOREA LAST SPRING WHICH RESULTED IN DPRK AMB IN NEW DELHI ALSO BEING ACCREDITED TO SRI LANKA.

2. ACCORDING TO MDFA SOURCES AND THE SOUTH KOREAN TRADE REP, HO WAS AFTER THREE THINGS:

(1) SUPPORT FOR DPRK'S APPLICATION TO JOIN NON-ALIGNED;
(2) RESIDENT DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION IN COLOMBO;

(3) AGREEMENT TO SEND CEYLONSE TRADE DELEGATION TO NORTH KOREA. SAME SOURCES TELL US THAT HE WENT AWAY EMPTY HANDED.

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PAGE 02 COLOMB 02465 081201Z

3. NORTH KOREANS SEEM TO HAVE KNACK OF ANNOYING
CEYLONESE. GSL OFFICIALS HAVE EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE
DISPLEASURE WITH HO DAM'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT HE WAS
ON "LOFTY" MISSION OF CONVEYING "GLORIOUS" MESSAGE
FROM KIM IL SUNG TO MRS BANDARANAIKE. RE SPECIFIC
ISSUES, GSL IS SAID NOT TO BE TAKING ANY INITIATIVE
ON KOREA, REQUESTS TO ATTEND NON-ALIGNED MEETING
ALTHOUGH
CEYLONESE WILL LIKELY GO ALONG WITH CONSENSUS.
PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE IS STICKING TO HER GUNS
ON RESIDENT REPRESENTATION ISSUE. REPORTEDLY SHE IS
STILL INSISTING ON NORTH KOREANS GIVING EXPLANATION
FOR ILLEGAL CURRENCY TRANSACTIONS THEY WERE INVOLVED
IN AT TIME OF 1971 INSURGENCY BEFORE ALLOWING THEM TO
HAVE RESIDENT DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION. ON TRADE
DELEGATION, NORTH KOREANS OWE SRI LANKA ABOUT FIVE
HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS FROM PREVIOUS TRADE AGREEMENT
AND OUR SOURCES TELL US THAT CEYLONESE WANT PAYMENT
OF THISAMOUNTIN HARD CASH RATHER THAN GOODS BEFORE
DISCUSSING FURTHER TRADE ARRANGEMENTS.
VAN HOLPUN

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